

home and bring them home now because the money is there now to bring the troops home. The money is there now to bring the troops home. The money is there now to bring the troops home.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### CAPTAIN DAVID FRASER, TEXAS WARRIOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, "Duty, honor, country: Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying point to build courage when courage seems to fail, to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith, to create hope when hope becomes forlorn.

"In my dreams I hear again the crash of guns, the rattle of musketry, the strange, mournful mutter of the battlefield. But in the evening of my memory always I come back to West Point. Always there are echoes and reechoes: Duty, honor, country."

Mr. Speaker, General Douglas MacArthur spoke these words to West Point graduates of what the American soldier should be.

Captain David Fraser, West Pointer, personified these words. For the last year, Captain David Fraser patrolled the vast desert battlefields of war-torn Iraq in search of the enemies of freedom.

This December, his tour of duty was over and he would be coming back to Fort Hood, Texas, to spend Christmas with those he cared about.

But on November 26, 2006, 25-year-old Captain Fraser and three other soldiers were killed in Baghdad by a cowardly enemy using an improvised explosive device called an IED.

Captain Fraser excelled at life. He was a native of Spring, Texas. He attended Westfield High School where he was an honor student and a star cross-country athlete. Twice he led the team to qualify for the Texas State cross-country meet. His senior year, Captain Fraser led the boy's team to the first cross-country district title in over 19 years. He was voted the most athletic of his senior class at Westfield.

He was a devout Christian who remained active in his faith, whether he

be in Texas or West Point, or stationed in lands far, far away. He was always willing to lend a hand at Sunday school or participate in Christian community events. His faith was his cornerstone. Those who knew Captain Fraser knew a man who was respected and admired by all. He was a born leader, always doing the right thing.

Captain Fraser applied to the West Point Military Academy, he said, out of sense of duty and as his way of giving back to a country that provided him with unlimited opportunities. Such powerful words, Mr. Speaker, of patriotism from one of America's finest.

Captain Fraser had a family history of military service. His mother, Helen; his father, Richard; his brother, Patrick, all served in the United States Armed Forces. He wanted to continue that proud tradition at West Point.

At West Point he ran like the West Texas wind as a member of the cross-country and track teams. Captain Fraser was also a superior student in the classroom. He graduated from that tough academy with honors as the top student in civil engineering. His academic performance promised Captain Fraser a faculty position at West Point during his career.

An accomplished soldier, Captain Fraser completed the rigorous Army Ranger, Airborne, and Air Assault schools. He was relentless in his determination to succeed.

In December 2005, Captain Fraser was deployed to Iraq, assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, and commanded several units. Recently he commanded a combat engineering platoon responsible for locating and disarming mines and other explosive devices implanted along Baghdad roads by insurgents. It was his mission to protect our soldiers and innocent Iraqis from the unseen enemy, the violent militants, the violent anarchists, those who stand against freedom and liberty.

As a decorated serviceman, Captain Fraser was the recipient of the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. For his service while in Iraq during a time of war, he was also awarded the Army Service Ribbon.

For his valor during combat on November 26, Captain Fraser was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Captain Fraser, this photograph I have of him while at West Point, he gave his life for his country, and he will be missed throughout the Spring, Texas, community by those whose lives he positively impacted.

Today Captain Fraser has finally come home to Texas. In fact, he is being buried now, as I speak on the House floor. Taps is being played for this Texas individual, for this committed countryman.

The Fraser family and the Spring, Texas, community will always remem-

ber that their son died a hero, serving this great country of ours and defending the basic rights of life and liberty and freedom.

Captain David Fraser lived and died as General MacArthur said, "for duty, for honor, for country."

So God bless the Fraser family and God bless David Fraser and God bless all those who wear the uniform of the American warrior.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1500

#### PASS COMMONSENSE GUN LAWS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, last month the people voiced their opinion of the 109th Congress. Their message was loud and clear. It is time for common sense, and I hope we can follow the people's lead and pass some commonsense legislation coming this January.

I am particularly interested in commonsense legislation that will keep guns out of the hands of criminals without infringing on anyone's second amendment right. When it comes to commonsense gun laws, the Congress has a dismal record.

Thus far this Congress has given corrupt and incomplete gun dealers immunity from negligent lawsuits. This Congress has made it a crime for two police departments to share information from ATF's ballistics database. This Congress has tied the hands of law enforcement during times of disaster and has made it possible for guns to be brought into hurricane shelters.

But next year I am hoping for a fresh start when it comes to commonsense gun laws. Last spring our Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security approved H.R. 1415, the NICS Improvement Act. That is a bill that I had introduced a number of years ago. This is a bill that would improve the effectiveness of the existing National Instant Criminal Background Check System, the database used to check firearms buyers for any criminal record or other disqualifying criteria. Overall, the NICS has been a great success. Since 1994 more than 1.2 million individuals have been turned down because of a failed background check. NICS also provides the vast majority of honest gun sellers with peace of mind in knowing that they are selling their products to citizens who will use them safely and legally.

However, the NICS system is only as good as the information that is put into it. And, unfortunately, many States do not have the resources necessary to enter all of their disqualifying criteria into the NICS system. This is thanks, in part, to the many unfunded mandates this Congress has imposed upon the States. The end result is that felons and others who are